News release

For better drainage call the Met Office

2 December 2002

The Met Office is introducing 'Deluge', a new service to help alleviate flooding and reduce pollution by providing urban drainage modellers with accurate, short-period rainfall data from across the UK.

The new tool allows water industry professionals to produce detailed five-minute rainfall data for any part of the UK covered by the Met Office's observing network. This assists in the design of better drainage systems which will help reduce flooding and pollution of rivers, lakes and bathing waters. It is the first time that such data has been available from the Met Office in a single, easy-to-use, quality-controlled product.

Deluge uses data from 'tipping bucket' rain gauges - which record precipitation in aggregates of 0.2 mm against time. With nearly 100 tipping bucket rain gauges located across the UK, and an average of seven years' data for each one, drainage modellers benefit from comprehensive data for all populated areas of the UK.

The data available from Deluge prove particularly valuable in assessing the performance of existing drainage schemes. Deluge also provides for longer term planning by including expected changes in rainfall patterns due to climate change.

Murray Dale, senior hydrologist at the Met Office comments: "Deluge has been created in direct response to water industry needs and we have worked closely with the industry during its development. One water company has used a pre-launch version of the product on a trial basis and was pleased with its performance.

"While rainfall statistics have been available for use by the water industry for many years, there has been a growing concern over synthetic rainfall data particularly with the perceived increase in extreme wet weather. Deluge will satisfy the growing need for accurate, short-period rainfall data."

Easy-to-use format

Deluge is available to customers as a CD-ROM on an annual contract basis and will be updated each year to subscribers.

The software, which is fully compatible with Windows 95, 2000 and NT, allows users to extract data including: all rainfall events with a minimum depth of 1 mm; all rainfall events with a minimum antecedent dry period of one hour; events across selected time periods; events across differing preset seasons.

Rainfall data events can be ranked according to: start and end dates and times; antecedent dry period lengths; precipitation depth; mean intensity; UCWI; AP130 factor. Deluge's data export facility allows extracted data to be saved for single and/or multiple events for use as input data for sewer network models.

For further technical and sales information about Deluge, contact the Sales Account Manager (Water).

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